

Jinlin WEI

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Department of Economics, University of Warwick

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Warwick, UK, 2020 - 2024(expected)

MRes in Economics (with Distinction), University of Warwick, UK, 2018 – 2020

M.A. in Economics, Peking University, China, 2015 – 2018

B.Sc. in Physics, Peking University, China, 2011 – 2015

B.A. in Economics, Peking University, China, 2012 – 2015

Academic Visit

Department of Economics, Northwestern University (Host: Prof. Joel Mokyr), January 2023 – June 2023

Research Interests

Primary: Economic History and Development Economics

Secondary: Financial Economics and Urban Economics

Publication

“[Railways and Cities in India](#)” (with James Fenske (University of Warwick) and Namrata Kala (MIT)), *Journal of Development Economics*, 161 (2023): 103038.

Abstract: Using a new dataset on city populations in colonial India, we show that the railroad network increased city size in the period 1881 to 1931. Our baseline estimation approach includes fixed effects for city and year, and we construct instrumental variables for railroad proximity based on distance from a least cost path spanning cities that existed prior to the start of railroad construction. Cities that increased market access due to the railroad grew. The small and heterogeneous effects we find are driven largely by cities that were initially small and isolated.

Working Papers

1. **“[Banking and Innovation: Evidence from the Industrial Revolution](#)” (Job Market Paper)**

Abstract: How do banks affect innovation when there exist liquidity constraints? Between 1750 and 1825, country banks in England and Wales provided short-term loans to clients due to legal restrictions during the Industrial Revolution. Using a new district-level panel dataset on patents and banks, covering almost six hundred registration districts, I find that better access to banking services increased patenting. My baseline estimation, which includes district and year fixed effects, shows that a one standard deviation increase in banking access increased patenting by 15.6% of a standard deviation. I establish a causal relationship by constructing instrumental variables that utilize shocks to the money supply and the locations of historical post towns to predict the growth of country banks. My findings suggest that country banks and their London agents contributed to the formation of an integrated national financial market that channeled surplus funds from rural districts to industrial areas that lacked credit. Country banks increased patents acquired by their clients, who were mainly industrialists and merchants. Banks lowered the costs of procuring working capital by providing short-term credit. The effects of banks were larger in districts subject to tighter credit constraints and lacked access to the London money market.

2. "[Branching for Caution: Banks in England and Wales during the 1878 Financial Panic](#)"

Abstract: Using a bank-level dataset on joint-stock banks in England and Wales between 1874 and 1885, I show that the exposure to an unexpected financial panic in 1878 led to the opening of new bank offices. The panic resulted from the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank. I include bank and year fixed effects in my baseline estimation and construct an instrumental variable based on the number of newspapers in the towns where bank headquarters were located. Banks opened new offices as a signal of stability to increase public confidence because large banks were perceived as more stable. The impacts were mainly driven by banks with a below-median number of offices before 1878. New offices also facilitated the shareholders' monitoring of banks. In towns with higher exposure to the nationalism spread by Conservative newspapers, bankers had the alternative strategy to substitute emphasis on English traditional banking practices for new offices. In towns with lower exposure to Conservative newspapers, banks with more Scottish directors opened fewer new offices and increased more capital than banks with fewer Scottish directors.

Work in Progress

1. "The Fate of the Taiping Rebellions", with Nuno Palma (University of Manchester) and Chenyang Qi (Tsinghua University)

Abstract: The Taiping rebellion in mid-nineteenth century China was the bloodiest civil war in recorded history, with more than 20 million dead. The ruling Qing dynasty narrowly managed to suppress the rebels and retain political control of the country after a decade and a half of conflict. We show, using a new dataset, that scholars educated in Confucian academies became a key force in the suppression of the Taiping, accounting for nearly half of the leaders of the suppression army. By counting the construction of the Confucian schools in China from the start of the Qing Dynasty to the outbreak of the Taiping movement, we find that the civil service examinations system helped maintain political stability and associated rents by endowing elites with a stake in the Qing status quo.

2. "The Fiscal Foundation of Bureaucratic Power Sharing in Late Qing China" with Tianyang Xi (Peking University): [Link to slides](#)

Abstract: How does the control over incomes affect de facto power within an organization? We construct datasets about the resumes of subnational leaders and details of likin, a new tax controlled by provincial leaders, in late Qing China. Using a two-way fixed effects model including position and year fixed effects, we show that higher incomes increased the chances of promotion and lowered the chances of demotion for subnational leaders in the next year. The Emperor promoted bureaucrats to avoid the rebellion of subnational leaders. Likin increased the chances of being promoted to connected regions and the impacts of likin were larger for bureaucrats perceived as less loyal to the Emperor. Subnational leaders enjoyed high discretion over the transfer payments to other provinces funded by likin.

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

2023 Northwestern Economic History Lunch Seminar X 2 (Evanston, USA), 2023 CAGE Economic History Workshop (Coventry, UK), Arthur Lewis Lab Graduate Workshop (Manchester, UK), Economic History Society Annual Conference (Coventry, UK), 12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Milan, Italy), PhD Symposium in Industrial Economics (Leicester, UK), CAGE Summer School (Coventry, UK), 3rd Annual Southern PhD Economics Conference (Brighton, UK), International Symposium on Quantitative History (Shanghai, China), World Congress of Cliometrics (Dublin, Ireland), 2023 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society in East and Southeast Asia (Singapore), 38th meeting of the European Economic Association (Barcelona, Spain), Applied Young Economist Webinar (Warwick and Monash, online)

2022 RES Annual Conference (online), RES Symposium of Junior Researchers (online), NIE 2022 Conference (Loughborough, UK), 2022 ACEM Doctoral Students Forum (online),

16th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Washington, D.C., USA),
The Chinese Economy in the Long Run: poster session (Manchester, UK), Bristol Economics
student workshop (Bristol, UK)

2021 EHS Residential Training School (Coventry, UK), 81st Annual Economic History
Association Meeting (Tucson and online, US), Quantitative History Webinar Series (online,
hosted by HKU), CAGE summer school (Coventry and online, UK), International Symposium
on Quantitative History (Shanghai, China)

2017 China Public Finance Forum (Shanghai, China), International Symposium on
Quantitative History (discussant, joint work presented by Prof. Tianyang Xi, Kaifeng, China)

Teaching Experience

EC226: Econometrics 1, Prof. Jeremy Smith and Dr. Kenichi Nagasawa, October 2022 –
December 2022

EC104: The World Economy: History & Theory, Dr. Claudia Rei and Prof. James Fenske,
October 2021 – June 2022

Introductory Lecture on using ArcGIS in Economics (Guest lecturer, Peking University), April
2022

Economics of Anti-trust and Regulations, Prof. Fan Zhang, September 2016 - January 2017

Urban Economics, Prof. Fan Zhang, March 2015 - July 2015

Professional Activities

- Organizer: CAGE AMES Workshops (University of Warwick)
- Referee for Journals:
 - Journal of Economic History
 - China Economic Quarterly International
- Referee for Workshops and Forums:
 - Quantitative China Studies Seminar (New York University)
 - Warwick PhD Forum (University of Warwick)
- Economic History Society Student Ambassador

Grants and Awards

2023

- Best Paper Prize of the Business and Industrial Section of the Royal Statistical Society
- Research Fund for Graduate Students by the Economic History Society (For visiting
archives, £ 1,000)
- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For UEA European Conference and
Cliometrics Congress, £ 2,000)
- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For EEA, £ 1,600)

2022

- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For data collection, £ 2,000)
- Departmental Discretionary Research Grant (For visiting Northwestern, £ 2,000)

2016

- Merit Student, Peking University

2013

- Award for Excellence in Academic Performances, Peking University

Scholarships

2020

- Chancellor's international scholarship and tuition waiver 2020 - 2024, University of Warwick

2018

- Departmental scholarship and tuition waiver 2018 - 2020, University of Warwick

2016

- First-Class Academic scholarship, Peking University

2015

- Full scholarship and tuition waiver 2015 - 2018, Peking University
- China Economic Research Scholarship, China Center for Economic Research, Peking University

2013

- Zhang Wenjin scholarship, Peking University
- Feng Shenjun Scholarship, China Center for Economic Research, Peking University

Research Assistantship Experience

Research: Digitization of Indian enterprises and entrepreneurs in Thacker's Indian Directory, July 2021-July 2022

Tutor: Prof. Bishnupriya Gupta

Research: explorations of "For love or reward? Characterising Preferences for giving to parents in an experimental setting", July 2017-January 2019

Tutor: Prof. Xiaobo Zhang (with Prof. Dandan Zhang and Prof. Maria Porter)

Research: Tax statistics and warlords' finances in early Republic of China, May 2017-July 2018

Tutor: Dr. Cong Liu

Research: "The Potential Impacts of BIT on China's Manufacturing Industries" (policy research paper), June 2014-August 2014

Tutor: Prof. Fan Zhang (with Prof. Miaojie Yu)

Research: The Effects of World War I on the Chinese Textile Industry: Was the World's Trouble China's Opportunity? (*The Journal of Economic History*, 80(1), 246-285), December 2013-August 2015

Tutor: Dr. Cong Liu

Further Education

2022 RES Easter Training School (Bristol, UK), 'math+econ+code' masterclass on equilibrium transport and matching models in economics (online)

2021 EHS Residential Training Course (Coventry, UK), CAGE Summer School (Coventry, UK)

2019 Urban Economics Association Summer School, (London, UK), Quantitative History Summer School (Yantai, China)

2017 Quantitative History Summer School (Kaifeng, China), Coase Workshop (Xiamen, China)

Social Services

2021 – Now Vice President, Peking University Alumni Association in the United Kingdom

Computer Skills

Stata, Matlab, ArcGIS, Python

Language

Mandarin Chinese (native), Cantonese Chinese (fluent), English (fluent)